

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4615

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2561

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, MILL, MASS, BG
SUBJ: ADMIRAL KHAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON MAY 20-23

REF: DACCA 1804

1. DCMLA ADMIRAL M.H. KHAN TOLD ME TODAY (MAY 12) THAT HE WILL VISIT WASHINGTON MAY 20-23 PRIOR TO HEADING THE BANGLADESH DELEGATION AT THE LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. HE HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY THAT HE ALREADY HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR ELLIOTT RICHARDSON TO DISCUSS LOS MATTERS (SEPTTEL).

2. KHAN ALSO HOPES TO CALL ON THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CNO FOR INITIATION OF OUR RECENT MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM AND DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WITH THE DEPARTMENT, HE HOPES TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA AND GENERAL MATTERS AFFECTING U.S.-BANGLADESH RELATIONS.

3. KHAN HAS BEEN GENERALLY HELPFUL TO US HERE, AND I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A CALL ON THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AS WELL AS UNDERSECRETARY HABIB OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON.

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4. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL MATTERS, WE WOULD EXPECT KHAN TO RAISE TWO SPECIFICS. FIRST, WITH THE CNO AND PROBABLY WITH STATE HE WILL REITERATE HIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING A NAVAL RESEARCH VESSEL. I HAVE EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT THIS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO TAKE ANY DEFINITE

ACTION AT THIS TIME. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THE
BANGLADESHIS ARE ALSO DISCUSSING POSSIBLE PROVISUON OF
A RESEARCH VESSEL WITH THE BRITISH. IT IS NOT YET
CERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER U.K. ASSISTANCE WILL
MATERIALIZE, AND KHAN OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO KEEP BOTH IRONS
IN THE FIRE. AS A SECOND ISSUE, WE WOULD EXPECT KHAN
ALSO TO REITERATE
HIS REQUEST THAT THE MINESWEEPER
WE PREVIOUSLY OFFERED AS A PLATFORM FOR A RESEARCH
VESSEL BE PROVIDED FOR USE AS A MINESWEEPER.
MASTERS

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